GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2453
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
THREATS TO NON-KASHMIRIS IN J & K
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Rijiju Shri Kiren;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item under the caption `Ghati Mein Phir Chiri gair-Kashmiriyon ko Nikalne ki Muhim` as reported in the Dainik Bhaskar dated September 18, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Non-Kashmiri workers and officials who left Kashmir in view of the threats from the terrorists;

(d) whether the Union Government has issued any directions to the State Government for the safety of Non-Kashmiri persons and officials living in the valley;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the exodus of Non-Kashmiris from Jammu and Kashmir?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (f): As per reports received from the State Government, in the wake of an incident of alleged rape and subsequent murder of a young Kashmiri girl at Langate, Handwara, on July 20, 2007 in which 4 persons, including 2 from outside the State of Jammu and Kashmir were accused/arrested, threats and calls were given by certain secessionist groups asking Non-State subjects (mainly workers from outside the State) to leave the State. As a result, movement of a sizeable number of non-local workers and labourers from the Valley was observed.

The Government has issued an advisory to the State Government and conjointly monitored the emerging security scenario. The State Government took immediate steps, including statements and appeals by the Chief Minister and a number of other functionaries of various parties and organizations, to instill confidence among the Non-State subjects. Under pressure from various sources, the secessionist groups also made statements retracting the threats.

The steps taken by the State Government included, strengthening of security arrangements and operations in areas inhabited by labourers and workers from outside, constitution of Joint Committees comprising the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and Assistant Labour Commissioner in each District to look into various aspects of the issue including a survey of such workers, meetings with respectable persons of the areas with the aim of generating public opinion against any such movement and creating a feeling of security amongst Non-State workers.

As a result of the various measures taken, outward movement/exodus of Non-State subjects has substantially receded and, according to available information, a number of persons who may have left the Valley have also returned. Moreover, in the recent past there has been no renewed threat from any terrorist organization.